

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 ACDA-12 SMS-02 EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00
/112 W
-----074210 031400Z /41

R 031341Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5115
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: UR, JA, ASEAN
SUBJECT: SOVIETS CRITICIZE U.S. MOTIVES IN ASEAN-U.S.
TALKS

REF: MOSCOW 16393

SUMMARY: PRAVDA COMMENTARY STATES U.S. WILL NOT
SUCCEED IN PRESSURING ASEAN AT UPCOMING U.S.-ASEAN
TALKS. COMMENTARY HOLDS RECENT VIETNAMESE-LAO
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"INITIATIVES" HAVE PROVIDED MORE "CONFIDENCE" TO ASEAN
NEGOTIATORS PREPARING FOR THE TALKS; WARNS ASEAN
AGAINST U.S. INTENTION TO USE "ECONOMIC PRESSURE
AND ITS OWN MILITARY PRESENCE" TO PUSH ASEAN "ONTO
THE ROAD OF MILITARISM;" AND URGES ASEAN STATES
TO UNITE WITH OTHER REGIONAL STATES "BUILDING
SOCIALISM" WHILE ACTIVATING INTRA-REGIONAL

ECONOMIC TIES. END SUMMARY.

1. ASSUME DEPT. HAS FULL TEXT OF AUGUST 2 PRAVDA COMMENTARY AUTHORED BY V. KALININ ON ASEAN. ARTICLE REFLECTS SHIFT IN SOVIET POSTURE TOWARD ASEAN WHICH HAS FOLLOWED TURN-ABOUT IN SRV POSITION ON ASEAN.

2. MAJOR PORTION OF COMMENTARY IS DEVOTED TO CRITICIZING U.S. MOTIVES TOWARD ASEAN IN CONTEXT OF U.S.-ASEAN WASHINGTON TALKS. IT CHARGES U.S. WITH ATTEMPTING TO USE "ECONOMIC PRESSURE AND ALSO ITS OWN MILITARY PRESENCE" TO PUSH ASEAN "ONTO THE ROAD OF MILITARISM, KNITTING TOGETHER A MILITARY BLOC." IT HOLDS THAT U.S. AND ASEAN POLICIES ARE "CONTRADICTORY" IN BOTH THE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL AREAS. FIRST ROUND OF U.S.-ASEAN TALKS IN MANILA, COMMENTARY ASSERTS, DID NOT LEAD TO "CONCRETE RESULTS" BECAUSE WASHINGTON HAS NOT ABANDONED ITS "NEO-COLONIAL WAYS." ARTICLE THEN ADDS "NOTHING HAS CHANGED" SINCE THEN.

3. COMMENTARY LAUDS "CERTAIN CHANGES IN THE SITUATION AND POSITIONS OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES OF SEA" THAT HAVE GROWN OUT OF VIETNAMESE AND LAO "INITIATIVES" TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS WITH NEIGHBORING STATES. IT CONTENDS THAT:

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-- THE ASEAN STATES HAVE BECOME CONVINCED THAT "THE COUNTRIES IN SEA BUSY WITH SOCIALIST CONSTRUCTION" ARE ATTEMPTING TO UNITE WITH OTHER REGIONAL STATES IN "STRENGTHENING PEACE AND DEVELOPING COOPERATION;"

-- THE REGIONAL NORMALIZATION PROCESS WILL NATURALLY LEAD TO "ACTIVIZATION OF INTRA-REGIONAL ECONOMIC TIES." THANKS TO THIS, THE ASEAN NATIONS CAN BE MORE CONFIDENT IN THEIR NEGOTIATIONS WITH "IMPERIALIST POWERS;" AND

-- "SEA OBSERVERS" BELIEVE THAT THE INTERESTS OF ASEAN COUNTRIES DEMAND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A POLICY OF "POSITIVE NEUTRALITY." THIS MEANS OPPOSING EFFORTS TO CONVERT ASEAN INTO A MILITARY BLOC AND (IN A REFERENCE THAT WOULD INCLUDE KAMPUCHEA AS WELL) "PROMOTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF COOPERATION AMONG ALL THE COUNTRIES OF THE REGION." "ONLY SUCH A POLICY," COMMENTARY CONCLUDES, "WILL BE ABLE TO PROMOTE THE WORK OF PEACE AND SECURITY IN SEA."

4. IT IS NOTEWORTHY THAT COMMENTARY OMITS

CRITICISM OF "REACTIONARY" DOMESTIC GROUPS WITHIN
SEPARATE ASEAN STATES SEEKING TO COOPERATE WITH
U.S. DESIGNS ON ASEAN. THIS CRITICISM WAS OFTEN
INCLUDED IN SOVIET PUBLIC COMMENT ON ASEAN PRIOR
TO THE VIETNAMESE TURN-ABOUT ON ASEAN. INSTEAD,
CRITICISM IS DIRECTED AT U.S. FOR ATTEMPTING TO
DRAW ASEAN INTO ITS STRATEGIC NET. IN AUG. 2
CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF, SOVIET MFA SECOND FAR
EASTERN DEPT. FIRST SECRETARY ABDURAZAKOV, A SOVIET
JAPANESE SPECIALIST, STATED THAT THE POSSIBILITY
OF ASEAN BEING CONVERTED INTO A U.S.-SUPPORTED

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MILITARY BLOC IS STILL VERY REAL. HE SAID JAPAN
IS NOT ACTIVELY COOPERATING WITH THE U.S. TOWARD
THIS END NOW. HOWEVER, HE CLAIMED, THIS SITUATION
COULD CHANGE SHOULD JAPANESE ASSERTIVENESS CONTINUE
TO BUILD. (ABDURAZAKOV'S COMMENTS ON OTHER

JAPANESE-RELATED TOPICS REPORTED SEPTEL.) TOON

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